



SEICHO-NO-IE International Spiritual Training Center Newsletter

Humanity Enlightenment and International Peace by Faith Movement

August 2003 Issue

31st ISTS in Waltham, Massachusetts



31st ISTS at Espousal Retreat House and Conference Center

This was a seminar that grew and grew – in more ways than one! On Thursday evening 34 enthusiastic people introduced themselves. One goal became clear – each wanted to learn more about SNI in order to share the wonderful experiences with more and more people!

Each morning began with the Holy Sutra reading, followed by Shinsokan, and the Articles of Faith, Thoughts of Home and of course, light laughter. This Spiritual Training Seminar was led by Rev. Masayo Tsuruta, Rev. Mario Kawakami, Rev. Tomio Otsuka, Rev. Bruce Mallery and Rev. Hiei Ando. Talk about a "Dream Team"

– we had it.

The attendees came from Canada and the states of California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York and New Jersey. It was wonderful to see so many Brazilian participants who want to spread the SNI teachings to the English-speaking community. Even though some couldn't understand English completely, they wanted to take part in ISTS and for them, simultaneous translation was provided!

The lecture hall resounded with the harmonious blending of voices singing the SNI songs accompanied by Hideki Takao and Ihoko Nishimura. And then –

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Seicho-No-Ie

International Spiritual Training Center

247 East 53rd Street, New York, New York 10022

Prayer for World Peace

by Masaharu Taniguchi

God's infinite love flows into me, and shines forth from me
as a brilliant spiritual light of love.

The spiritual light of love grows and grows in intensity,
covering the entire world, and filling the hearts of all mankind (everyone),
with thoughts only of Love, Peace, Order and the Truth of oneness in God.

piritual Brothers and Sisters,



onducted International Spiritual Training Seminars (ISTS) in numerous
Canada, including, in or near the following cities: New York, Los
Angeles, San Francisco, Miami, Denver, Boston, Toronto and Vancouver.
From the west coast from New York City, I realize the vastness of America.
The distance from New York City to Los Angeles is 2450 miles (3951 km), which is com-
parable to a round trip between Tokyo and Peking (1310 miles, 2113
km). He travels more than the distance of Tokyo to Moscow (4650
miles, 7484 km). He travels more than the distance of Tokyo to Moscow (4650
miles, 7484 km). Thank you very
much.

Those who attend Seicho-No-Ie's ISTS are quite different from place to
place. On the west coast, many Brazilian members attend the ISTS and, on the west
coast, many attendees are of Japanese origin. At the present time, these people
are propagating Seicho-No-Ie's teaching in North America. I just want to say
that this is quite big and there is much more area to explore in order to dis-
seminate the teachings.

(International Spiritual Training Seminar), which was held June 12 -15,
at the Conference Grounds, Pacific Grove, CA was a grand experience for me.
I was located within walking distance of the Pacific Ocean and the season
was perfect. I want to thank SNI Northern CA Missionary Area's Chief, Rev. Mario
Miyazaki and Board members of Northern CA for supporting the ISTS. Out of the
4 people who were first-timers. As I mentioned above, many Japanese-
Americans attended the seminar. All of them said that they were glad that they had
attended the participants there were two people who had cancer. Because of
their chemotherapy and radiation treatment, I could feel what they were
going through. I empathized with them. We all prayed for their quick recovery during
our Mutual Prayer." Toward the end of the Seminar, I noticed that their
faces were brighter than when they first came. In fact, everyone looked quite bright.
I met the newlyweds - Mr. and Mrs. Matsumoto! They are the first couple
to attend the International Spiritual Training Seminar (ISTS). Asami Inafuku
attended for the first time. Afterwards, Asami stayed a few days in New York
City. He took her on a tour of the city. Hiroyuki Matsumoto (photographer)
attended. During the tour, they felt a strong attraction to each other. Well, to
be short, they decided to get married on July 4th and with the presence
of me from Okinawa, I had the honor of conducting the wedding ceremony.

With love, peace and a big smile,

Hiiei Ando
Ordained Minister



I am truly grateful that I was able
to attend the four-day seminar in
California with my husband, and I
really thank the people who
planned and organized this won-
derful seminar.

I, myself, attended the seminar last
year, but for my husband, this was
the first time. Before coming to the
seminar, I wondered how he would
feel about it. After the four days, he
said that he really enjoyed it and
that he learned a lot. First of all,
the food was very delicious. Also
the air, scenery and the people
made us feel nostalgic, since
California was the place we first
moved to from Japan.

At the beginning of the Shinsokan
for Mutual Prayer, the person who
was sitting behind me told us, "Go
to the front and receive prayer. I
will pray for you." I experienced
receiving prayer for the first time.
My husband received prayer for a
peaceful mind for his old father
and two of his good friends. I
received prayer for my brothers,
one who went through bankruptcy
recently after the burst of the bub-
bled-up economy, and the other
whose health is not ideal.

Through this session I experienced
joy and a sense of gratefulness
from receiving the prayer, as well
as a wonderful feeling of oneness
and energy. Later, my husband
expressed the same feeling.
For us, it was an indescribable and
precious experience.



Akeno and Masaru Tojo

He said, "I can feel the
power in me. No matter what
I can handle it."

I think that he was giv-
ing out power through the
prayer. At the end of the ser-
mon, he became able to hold
the prayer position when
praying, saying, "Thank you
very much." I used to have
difficulty putting my hands in a
prayer position. This time, I
was able to say farewell to the
bottom of my heart with
confidence. Although I used to
feel hesitant about re-
ceiving the divinity of the person,
I received it with confidence. I
took a huge step towards living
the Truth. As we remember
the friends we met at the
seminar, we are now talking about
the ISTS. We will attend the
seminar in California. We will go
to the seminar. We will surely go to T
to start our new life in
with such a cheerful feeling.
All the reverends and
those who attended the ser-
mon, thank you very much.

Akeno Tojo

33rd INTERNATIONAL SPIRITUAL TRAINING SEMINAR

**October 2-5, 2003
Beaverton, Ontario, Canada**

Find all the tools to bring happiness into your life. This ISTS will help guide you through a wonderful experience at the Fair Havens Ministry during a relaxing yet stimulating four-day weekend. You definitely won't want to miss this fabulous event!

To register, or for more information, please call the International Spiritual Training Center New York Office, 247 East 53rd Street, NY, NY 10022
Phone: (212) 371-4606; Fax: (212) 371-4630
web site: www.sniists.org

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Rev. Ando vowed to propagate the SNI teachings and to dedicate his life to the Humanity Enlightenment and International Peace by Faith Movements. The Memorial Service for Ancestors helped many to connect with their ancestors and to find peace with them. Shinsokan for Mutual

Prayers led everyone to realize the importance of helping and praying for each other. In this way, everyone benefits.

And so, the weekend came to a close with now 54 attendees. It did grow, not only in numbers, but also in the minds of those participants! What a wonderful time!!

By Nana Ishii, Toronto, Canada

"Let's enjoy nature. Let's go out and hug a tree. Feel free. Forget your city life. Feel God within, without and everywhere." Wow, what a wonderful way to start the 32nd ISTS. Rev. Hiei Ando really got everyone going in the right direction with his opening speech. "The teachings are simple. See

growth. Rev. Mallery continued with his thought that we must feel and express God with our whole mind and soul – that is why we should practice Shinsokan.

Asilomar (meaning 'refuge by the sea') is located 71 miles south of San Jose and lies right next to the Pacific Ocean. It is situated within



32nd ISTS at Asilomar Conference Grounds.

things in a spiritual sense." Rev. Kawakami related the moving testimony of Isamu Shigemori who, in spite of his severe cerebral palsy, achieved his dream of becoming a computer software engineer. Then, Rev. Tsuruta reiterated Dr. Taniguchi's teachings that if your dreams are pure and will benefit others, those dreams will come true. Also, Rev. Iwatani said that when you become grateful to EVERYONE and EVERYTHING your True Image will be manifested. Hardships are for spiritual

107 acres of natural ecological environment. It is inhabited by many animals, including deer, squirrels, raccoons, and various birds. What a beautiful, serene area for meditating and learning the teachings of SNI.

Forty people came for this seminar from North & South California, Washington, New York, New Jersey, Hawaii, British Columbia, and Ontario. Of these forty, twenty-four were first-timers! Isn't that great?! *(continued on page 5)*

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– the Portuguese songs – wow, what a joyous sound! The rhythm and dance of their SNI songs just uplifted and energized the whole crowd.

As the weekend progressed, a strong feeling of camaraderie start-



Laughing Practice

ed to develop among the participants. The setting of the Espousal Retreat House and Conference Center may have had an influence on this. The Center is located a mile and a half from the center of Waltham, Massachusetts atop a hill on 50 acres of landscaped ground. It provided a peaceful atmosphere for reflection and meditation. For many this was the first ISTS that they had attended. Some comments heard were:

- "ISTS has enlightened me."
- "I am totally amazed at what Mind Purification has done for me."
- "I feel so light – as if all my burdens are gone."
- "Now I know what I want to do with my life."
- "I'm going to put much more



Singing at the 31st ISTS

effort into learning English so that I can become an ordained minister and sit at the back like those leaders."

- "The SNI teachings have given me more confidence and has dispelled my many fears."

What a moving Mind Purification Service it was. It's interesting, isn't it, that the first service the participants go through is this particular service? It seems appropriate that we cleanse and purify our minds before becoming more deeply immersed in the activities of the weekend. Candlelight Service was exceptionally gratifying at this 31st Seminar. Why? Everyone was enthusiastic, yet solemn, as they realized the importance of being handed the flame to propagate the teachings. Added to this was Rev. Ando's testimony of a meeting with Dr. and Mrs. Masaharu Taniguchi and of how he received guidance from them.

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I would personally like to thank the Northern Californian members for their gracious hospitality.



Singing at 32nd ISTS

Sunday morning, the last day of the seminar, was ablaze with bright sunlight as the reading of the Holy Sutra began. It was with both sadness and happiness that the final day arrived. When Eric Shishido started to sing, "Now is the hour when we must say goodbye," there were sighs of regret around the hall. However, this really wasn't the end – only the beginning. The trainees were more than eager to return to their respective locales to do more propagation and to begin new Home Meetings in English.

And so from Mind Purification to Shinsokan for Mutual Prayers, the participants experienced the SNI services filled with emotions of gratitude, joy, harmony and love. AND, what a final 'light stretching' exercise we had with Rev. Ando as our leader. Did I say, "light"? – it was quite a disco!

Some of the comments overheard were:

- "I am re-energized – bursting with SNI energy. I want to open up a new Reading Circle group and more English Home Meetings."
- "Ten years ago, I would never have thought I'd be here. SNI has helped me. I still feel some resistance but I am growing."
- "I feel renewed. I can't wait for the next opportunity to go deeper into the teachings and create more meetings. I will do Shinsokan every day."
- "I have learned so much from the



Rev. Mallery speaking in the lecture hall

Leaders but also from the other trainees. I will make more effort to practice and do the deeds of love."

- "I will keep trying to encourage young people to come to SNI."
- "I couldn't understand the English fully but I felt the wonderful vibrations and positive attitude throughout the weekend."

It appeared that most really felt that they had been handed the "flame of life" to pass on to as many people as possible. It was a truly rewarding experience!

By Nana Ishii, Toronto, Canada